

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

~~THERAPEUTICS AND DIAGNOSTICS FOR OCULAR ABNORMALITIES~~ NUCLEIC  
ACIDS ENCODING INTERPHOTORECEPTOR MATRIX PROTEINS

Please replace paragraph [04] with the following amended paragraph:

This patent application is a continuation-in-part of ~~U.S.S.N.~~ U.S. Application No. 09/430,195, abandoned, filed October 29, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part of ~~U.S.S.N.~~ U.S. Application No. 09/183,972, abandoned, filed October 29, 1998. The disclosures of these previously filed applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety for all purposes.